

Exercise & Evangelism



Top: Our Vision Team. Bottom: Jarred, a long-term international Cru staff member, gives us a ride to campus on his motorbike.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please pray for the 650,000 students & the 21+ million people in this area of the world to hear the Gospel. Pray for the summer team heading there to help meet this need in July, & for their finances to be raised. Please pray for wisdom for our team as we consider whether to make a long term partnership with this location.



As Josh & I stepped into the street, our senses were overloaded. First was the thick blanket of smog assaulting our lungs, then came the incessant honking from the streets surrounding us, then the uncomfortably long stares from curious passersby. Our bright athletic apparel didn't help, but sticking out was inevitable no matter what we wore. We had observed that the busy street afforded the clearest jogging path while the sidewalk, with its frequent debris, pot holes, & various types of feces was less negotiable. But we craved the exercise after a long flight & besides, how many can say they ran in traffic in one of the biggest cities in Asia?

A few weeks ago, I ventured out with 7 USC Cru students & staff to explore our next potential overseas partnership location. Praise God, we've worked ourselves out of a job at our current partnership, Lebanon, which no longer needs our short term teams to help with campus ministry efforts. The city (which we can't disclose for security reasons) which contains the elite universities of its country & educates 650,000 Asian leaders a year has a huge need—especially with only 8 long term Cru staff there. (Compare that to about 165,000 students in S.C. who still overwhelm 40 Cru staff.)

We spent several days engaging students in spiritual matters. Harshvardhan, a law student, was particularly bothered when I told him that Christ, not America, held my highest allegiance. He replied "Your allegiance to the state must be higher than to your religion or else you will become like ISIS & use violence to force others to believe what you believe." This area is experiencing a rising nationalistic sentiment, so this view is commonly held by students. I suggested that perhaps man's main problem is not his ideology as much as his nature. As I shared about Christ with my new friends, something funny happened: they became pensive & soft-spoken & asked me more questions about this Christ. Simply put, the Gospel left an impression on these students; which in turn left an impression on me: this place is spiritually hungry.

Josh & I would pass the slums on our runs. Children would play amidst the trash heaps and overwhelming smells. It's a fitting metaphor for the Gospel "poverty" of this place. Join me in praying for more laborers to be sent to one of the last large frontiers of unreached people in our world & for wisdom as we consider this location for our next Lowcountry overseas partnership commitment.